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Immigration in the Sixtieth
Congress

New York

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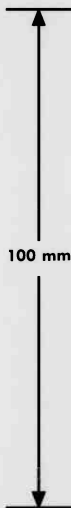
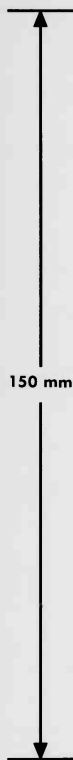
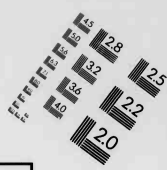
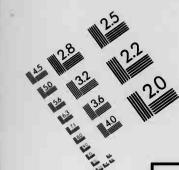
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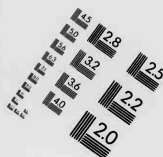
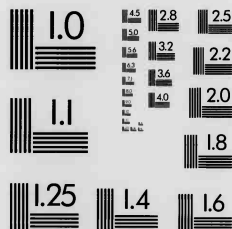
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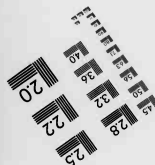
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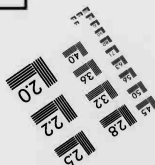
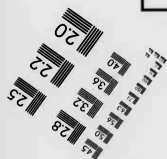
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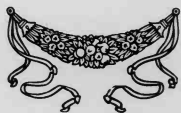
Immigration

in the

Sixtieth Congress

*Extracts from Speeches
Delivered in January, 1908*

BY REPRESENTATIVES
MURPHY, SABATH, COCKRAN,
O'CONNELL, GOULDEN
and McMILLAN



National Liberal Immigration League
150 NASSAU STREET
NEW YORK CITY

INTRODUCTION

THE reception accorded to our pamphlet, Immigration in the 59th Congress, having been satisfactory, we take pleasure in presenting to the public this one, Immigration in the 60th Congress. The extracts reprinted in these pages have been taken from speeches delivered in the House of Representatives by Congressmen Murphy, Sabath, Cockran, O'Connell, Goulden and McMillan.

IMMIGRATION IN THE 60th CONGRESS

Speeches Delivered in January, 1908

MR. MURPHY, OF WISCONSIN:

The copper mines of Michigan and the great iron mines of Minnesota are operated almost entirely by Hungarians and Finlanders, because native American labor cannot be had. Italian miners are in the front rank of the miners of Europe to-day. These are the men who have driven the tunnels through the Alps; they are working in the mines of every country of Europe, and among the recent immigrants to this country are numbers of those men who will be a valuable addition to our army of producers. We need them in my State to open up farms. We have there thousands, yes, millions of acres of land suitable for homes that await but the coming of the class of labor which some gentlemen here would exclude. We have an immigration bureau that is saying to those people, "Come, here is work; here is land upon which you can provide for and educate your family to become citizens of the land of the free. We want you; we need your labor."

The great State of Wisconsin has always extended to the immigrant a welcome, and he has repaid her generosity an hundredfold, nor does she fear that by his coming her institutions will be subverted or her civilization degraded. The laws we have enacted are a sufficient safeguard against the admission of dangerous classes, and the officers intrusted with the enforcement of those laws should be provided with the facilities necessary for a careful, just and humane administration of those laws. We want the people that such an enforcement of those laws will let in. As an example of how badly we need them, I cite you an instance in my own town last summer. It is a small city of 6,000 people, 1,000 miles in the interior. A sewage system was being installed and the parties in

charge, after seeking in vain for American labor, were compelled to employ for that purpose some of those Hungarian immigrants who have since returned to their native land.

Sir, as the son of one of those immigrants whom a misguided portion of our people a generation ago sought to exclude, I could not stand here to-day and not say to those people longing for liberty, longing for a free home and a happy fireside, "Come."

My father came here as an Irish immigrant at a time when many people believed that his coming and the coming of others of his class should be prohibited. He helped, with others like him, to build the railroads, to develop the mines, to open the farms, to extend the business of the country; and I believe that this country has not been the worse for his coming. (*Applause.*) Sir, I am speaking here for the people of my District and my State, and I know whereof I speak when I say that, although seven languages of Europe besides English are spoken in my district, we have no undesirable citizens there. We have the German, the Norwegian, the Bohemian, the Frenchman, the Pole, the Welshman and even the much-reviled Italian, besides the English, Irish, Scotch, and Canadians who speak the English tongue. They are all good and valuable citizens, honest, frugal, and patriotic. Their coming has been a blessing to the State, a benefit to the nation. They have fulfilled every duty as good and patriotic citizens. With the record of the past to guide her, the State is saying to the worthy and oppressed, "Come, a home and a competence await you." When they do come we want the Government to have such facilities for receiving, examining and caring for them that they may be treated as civilized beings. They may come to us poorly clad, as passengers of the crowded steerage quarters, but no man shall say what their future will be in this land of enlarged opportunities.

Less than thirty years ago a young man clad in the homely garb of his native land of Norway walked up the gang-plank from a steerage berth of a trans-Atlantic liner. He is to-day the honored governor of the State of Wisconsin. Two of my colleagues on this floor were born beyond the sea, and no man presumes to say that the State has not been benefited by their presence.

MR. SABATH, OF ILLINOIS:

Mr. Chairman, I think I may justly claim for Chicago, my home, that it is one of the greatest if not the greatest city of the world. It is a city that is recognized as one of the wonders of the age, and

I want to say to you that no man with a desire to be fair would deny to the foreign-born citizens of Chicago their just share in the making of the city's greatness. (*Applause.*) The foreigners of Chicago did much toward building the city. To a very large degree they helped to make the city what it is, and they are to-day doing their full share in maintaining the city at its high level. Chicago without its foreign element would have no place among the cities of the earth. Take from it to-day its foreigners, and to-morrow the wheels of its factories would cease to turn. Its mills would be forced to close, and it would realize a condition of industrial stagnancy the like of which it never knew before.

The population of Chicago is greater than that of either the State of Iowa or Alabama, and in view of this fact I should like to ask the gentleman from Iowa and the gentleman from Alabama a few questions. I should like to inquire of the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Hepburn) if he is aware of the fact that the population of his State has been decreasing for several years? I wonder if the gentleman from Iowa would consider it impertinent of me to ask if there is a possibility of relation between the decrease of population in his State and his annual speeches in Congress against immigration? Also, I might suggest to the gentleman from Iowa that he would learn, should he care to consult the census reports, that over one-half of what is left of his State's population is composed of foreign-born and foreign-parentage population. He would learn that this population is composed of members from the Austrian, Bohemian, Danish, German, Polish, Irish, Russian, Slavonian and Scandinavian nationalities. Are these undesirable citizens? I wonder. No, indeed. They are just the contrary. They are the most worthy, useful and desirable citizens that can be found anywhere in our land. Well, then, who are these undesirable citizens to whom the gentleman refers? Furthermore, I should like to inquire of the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Hepburn) if he remembers that only last year his State was clamoring for labor with which to move its crops? And I should like to respectfully inform him that this labor was not available.

And is the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. Burnett) aware of the fact that his State also was sorely in need of labor last year? Does he recall that thousands and thousands of dollars' worth of cotton remained unpicked in the fields because there was no labor with which to gather the harvest? Isn't it about time for these gentlemen to stand a little closer to the interests of their own States? Is it fitting for these gentlemen to make speeches against immigra-

tion, which means labor, when their own States have more work to do than can be done by their present population? These gentlemen are not unlike the old maid who sought to give advice to the mother of a dozen on how to properly bring up a family. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Chairman, what these foreigners have done for Chicago they have done for the West and the Northwest generally. Go out along our railroads, which extend, as the very arteries of our national life, into the great granaries of the West and Northwest, and you will find there, working everywhere, building railroads, working in the forests and on the farms, and in the mines and factories, engaged in every kind of enterprise and industry that helps to develop and increase the great wealth of our country, those very foreigners to whom these gentlemen have referred as undesirable citizens. And I wish to say here that one of the most important and significant features of the great work that is being done by these foreigners is that a large per cent. of it is so hard and so toilsome that the average American workman would not be content to do it. Practically all the hardest and most wearisome, yet withal the most constructive and valuable work that is being done in America to-day, is being done by these foreigners to whom the gentlemen refer as undesirable citizens. I submit, Mr. Chairman, that it is not only unjust to speak of these people in this way, but that it does an honest and worthy class of citizens a great wrong. (*Applause.*)

Nearly every day, Mr. Chairman, we read in the newspapers that there has been a terrible mine accident somewhere, or that there has been a frightful explosion in one of our mills or factories. And always, with these accounts, there is a statement that most of the workmen killed were foreigners. I will venture to say that an overwhelming per cent. of the workmen who are killed annually in American mines and factories are foreigners. Thus do these undesirable citizens of whom these gentlemen speak sacrifice their very lives that America may rank at the head of industrial nations.

The statement has been made by the gentleman that the foreigner is forcing wages down in this country, and this I emphatically deny. It is a well-known economic principle that demand increases with production, and when the foreigner, by his labor, increases the American product, he raises rather than lowers not only his own condition, but that of the American laborer as well. That is why the West has been developed from a waste of prairie into the richest and most productive region in the world. The story of increased wealth everywhere is the story of increased labor that preceded it. It is exactly for this reason that the South, lying dormant and in-

active under the burden of her undeveloped natural wealth, is clamoring for the immigration from Europe.

In the years 1905, 1906 and 1907, immigration to this country from Europe was heavier than it ever was before, and allow me to call your attention to the fact that never before was the country so prosperous as it was during those years. Isn't this significant? Doesn't this show that there is a direct relation between immigration and high wages? Go through the East and the Middle West and you will find wages a hundred per cent. higher than they are in the South, yet all of the immigrants from Europe settle in the East and the Middle West and very few of them reach the South. How, then, can it be successfully maintained that immigration has anything to do with keeping wages at a low level? I think that if the gentlemen will study the situation carefully they will find that immigration has just the opposite effect, and that without this great army of workers from Europe we could have had neither increased wages nor increased prosperity.

To prove to the gentlemen that the country has been materially benefited by immigration let me cite a few figures. In 1871 our immigration was 321,350, and for the following ten years it averaged something over 219,000 a year. In 1871 our exports were only \$442,820,078, while our imports were \$520,223,684, or a balance of trade against us of \$77,401,000. For the six years subsequent to 1870, when our immigration was at such a low tide, the balance of trade against us was the enormous amount of \$243,706,469.

During the last ten years our immigration averaged 722,122 a year, or nearly three and one-half times as much as it did in the years from 1870 to 1876, inclusive. And for these years we find that our exports exceeded our imports by an average of \$516,617,819 each year, and that the total amount in our favor for those years was \$5,161,781,913. From these figures it can be readily seen that without our increased immigration we could not have produced the great wealth that allows us to pile up such a tremendous balance of trade, and which allows us to rank as the foremost nation of the world.

Mr. Chairman, my district in Chicago is peopled by representatives of nearly every nation in the world. It is peopled by representatives of sturdy races whose struggles for liberty and freedom date back to periods before the western world had a place in the dreams of men. It is peopled by men and women from the countries of Europe, who, oppressed in their own lands, long looked forward to American citizenship that they might for themselves and chil-

dren enjoy that freedom and that liberty of which they had heard and dreamed.

MR. COCKRAN, OF NEW YORK:

If I agreed that the admission of immigrants to this country lessened the prospect of employment to one of our inhabitants; if I thought it could work otherwise than to increase the prospect of employment and of larger wages for every worker among our people, I should join most heartily in every proposal for the exclusion of aliens. But, Mr. Chairman, I believe that our whole experience shows conclusively the immigrant coming here does not restrict but extends the opportunities of the native toiler.

The gentleman from Alabama said that the immigrant who returned to Italy with some money in his pockets had earned the wages of which this money was the fruit by displacing some American laborer. Mr. Chairman, to some extent that is true. The immigrant laborer does indeed displace the native laborer; but how? Not by driving him from the field of employment, but by raising him on his back to a higher plane of employment, where he gains vastly larger wages and enjoys much better conditions. Let us examine this assertion by the test of practical experience.

A bricklayer in the City of New York earns \$6 a day for eight hours' labor. Will the gentleman from Alabama explain how that rate of wages could be paid to such a worker if he were compelled to carry every brick that he used to the top of the wall where it must be laid in mortar? Obviously it would be impracticable. Such wages can only be paid where every moment of time at the disposal of that highly paid artificer is employed in the higher form of productive labor. How can that be done? Only by employing cheaper labor to do the ancillary work. If there were not some cheaper laborer available to carry the bricks for \$1.75 or \$2 a day, it would be impossible to pay the bricklayer any such wages as now prevail.

What is the universal complaint in several of the Southern States? That it is impossible to secure a supply of laborers adequate to the pressing necessities of the country. The scarcity of labor there is such that the importance of the negro (the only laborer available) is rising to a point where he may yet find himself in a position to demand the concession of political rights which now you do not think it safe to accord him. (*Laughter on the Republican side.*) In every direction for the last five years there has been a

positive famine of labor. It was in response to the demand for it that millions of healthy men have sought our shores, and that mighty tide, pouring through our ports, has directed itself to the very fountains of production. These hardy laborers have paved streets, dug foundations, constructed sewers, built railways, plowed fields, sown seeds and harvested crops—work without which no other could be performed or even undertaken, but which the native American always avoids. These immigrants have found employment and gain their own livelihood by the elemental labor that is the basis on which all highly paid labor must depend. I wonder if the gentleman from Alabama and the gentleman from Iowa realize the fact that no highly paid mechanic is ever employed directly upon the earth, but always on some product of the earth. The primary products of the earth are the fountain and the origin of all the higher or skilled employment. The bricklayer can not be employed until the foundations of the wall are dug by some coarser labor. The cabinet-maker can not put together the pieces that form this desk until some day laborers out in the forest have felled the trees which furnish him his raw material.

I am speaking of ordinary unskilled labor. I say that no skilled labor can be employed directly upon the earth, but always upon some product of the earth or upon some previous preparation of the earth. The miller cannot mill corn until it is first sown and tilled and reaped by a day laborer.

Our whole industrial system may be described as a vast multitude of unskilled laborers, creating conditions under which highly trained artisans obtain employment that wins liberal remuneration.

MR. BURNETT. How about the specialist who inspects mines?

MR. COCKRAN. He is a professional man, not a laborer. I am speaking of manual labor. I am not speaking of the mining engineer; I am not speaking of the highly trained professional man; his theatre of employment is the world. In every country of the globe his admission is free. I am speaking now of immigrants and trying to show that, instead of being obstacles to our country's prosperity, they have been its promoters and its architects. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Chairman, we read that in Sparta the Helots purchased their admission to citizenship by service to the country in the field of battle. Here the immigrant has been the Helot who has purchased admission to our citizenship for himself and his children by more valuable service to the country in the field of industry. He has

maintained, if indeed he has not established, the conditions under which the high wages paid to American mechanics have been the wonder and the inspiration of mankind. I put to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. Burnett) a case which shows conclusively that we could not pay the wages which the mechanics now enjoy if it were not for that supply of cheap labor that comes to our shores every year. I challenge him to show any possible injury that could flow to the country from the advent of men who seek no other end than a chance to work. The gentleman says that returning immigrants take vast sums of money from the country. But every man who brought back a dollar from this country to his native soil must have created it by the labor of his own hand. Aye, and he created many times the amount that he took back with him. Whatever amount he may have taken away, he must have left a vastly greater sum behind that he could not move. Every man knows that every laborer who works for wages must himself produce and create every dollar that he is paid. There is no other fund from which he can be compensated. And no laborer ever obtains the full value of his own product. This is another way of saying that every laborer produces more than he consumes. The difference is his contribution to the wealth of the country. The profit of capital is the difference between the value of the thing which the laborer produces and the amount which he obtains for himself. Even if the departing immigrant took with him every dollar of wages paid here, he must leave here the wealth which represents the profit made in employing him. What he brought back to his own country represents that which he made at no man's expense. It was but the residuum of what was left to him after he had contributed to the welfare of everybody by increasing the volume of wealth throughout the community. (*Applause.*) Every one here, I assume, will concede that what I have described as the elemental labor—the digging of drains and foundations, the tilling of fields and the reaping of crops—must be performed before any higher form of labor can be employed. It follows that if the supply of unskilled laborers now flowing to our shores from foreign lands be shut off, then the American laborer must do it.

I ask again, can Americans mill corn if there be not hands to sow the seed and laborers to reap the crop? Can skilled American mechanics build steel structures unless common laborers dig the foundations? Can a single form of industry be exercised in its higher phase unless every lesser be performed by some cheaper labor? Does not the skilled mechanic find his field of employment

furnished for him by the common laborer? Is it not the experience of every man in every great city that the pavements of streets are laid, the sewers that drain the refuse are built, the foundations of buildings are dug by foreign laborers, while Americans are employed in the higher form of industry where rewards are more liberal and hours of labor shorter?

When any gentleman here professes to apprehend that the future prosperity of American labor is threatened or imperiled by immigration, I say most respectfully he misapprehends the economic conditions that govern production. Were I convinced or did I deem it possible that the apprehensions of the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. Burnett) or of the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Hepburn) were well founded, I would vote to close the doors now and forever against all immigrants. I concede, Mr. Chairman, that our duty here is only and solely to our own people. The question whether we shall admit or exclude immigrants should be decided not by the results to aliens who may be anxious to come here, but by the results to men and women who are here now and who constitute our population. (*Applause.*)

I welcome this tide of immigration, because I believe there is nothing that can enter our ports so valuable to us as a pair of human hands eager and anxious to engage in labor upon our soil, to increase the volume of commodities available for you and me, to widen the field of production in which highly paid American laborers can find employment. Because I am firmly convinced that this is the economic result of immigration, I have felt bound to rise and submit these remarks in answer to the assertion of the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. Burnett) and of the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Hepburn) that every laborer admitted to the country gains his bread not by serving his fellows, increasing their opportunities of employment, thus stimulating the rate of wages, but by competing vigorously if not ruinously with the American worker.

MR. O'CONNELL, OF MASSACHUSETTS:

I come from Boston, the second port of entry as far as immigration is concerned, and have had a good chance to observe the classes and the races and kinds of immigrants. We in Massachusetts honor the Italian, the Hebrew, the Pole, and Russian; we are proud of the great success of the Irish immigration of the past and present and the great part they have played in upbuilding the State, and we are confident that these later races will equal the races

that preceded them. We admire the people who come to us for their various virtues, and we hope that by adding their virtues to our demonstrated strength that we will continue to grow great and wise, and by this immigration hold our proud place among the States of this Union.

I would call the attention of the gentleman from Iowa to the fact that within three years 100,000 Italians have crossed the Alps into Germany, that they are being invited there to-day, and that Germany to-day is the one industrial nation that we must fear and against whom we must compete, and that when the German Emperor with his wisdom and sagacity sees fit to invite these men whom the gentleman would keep out, there must be some real good substantial reason for such action. Moreover, Germany is more densely populated than is the United States, and if Germany can handle these immigrants to the satisfaction of her own citizens and cries out for more, then certainly our great undeveloped nation with her unknown wealth of resources can use them to advantage.

Let me further call the gentleman's attention to the fact that he comes from a comparatively new State; that I come from an old State; that I come from a State that, next to Rhode Island, is the most thickly congested in the Union. To-day Massachusetts has over 56% of foreign born, including the children of immigrants, who came here within one generation, not going back to the grandfather, but simply the father. If Massachusetts without any natural resources, without any fields, or mines, or forests, and deprived of those things which you have so abundantly in the great West, can invite that character of population and can successfully assimilate it and show to the world such splendid results in industry, progress, sobriety, education and culture, then it must be conceded that a powerful and strong argument is given to this House for greater immigration of the races that still knock at our door. Again, let me call the attention of the gentleman to this fact, that only in those parts of Massachusetts where immigration has been largest—in Suffolk, Middlesex, Worcester, Essex and Bristol—has there been any advance, and only in such counties where there has not been immigration, such as Dukes and Nantucket, Hampshire and Franklin, has there been little or no progress. Massachusetts stands among the New England States as a peer, and although she has no natural resources, such as Maine or New Hampshire, and is smaller in area than Maine, yet she is in the lead among the New England States, for the single reason that she has invited immigration. This has made her a progressive State, while those other States where

immigration has not been known are simply going forward in a small way, if not going backward. It was the brain, brawn, industry, patriotism and perseverance of these sons and daughters of Europe that gave Massachusetts her position and permits her to retain it.

Let me say to gentlemen of this House, that when their States shall be filled up we shall be happy to have the Italian and other races come to us. Your State of Iowa was built up by immigrants from Massachusetts. The State of Kansas and the State of Missouri and the great States of the South may well follow, and if Iowa can show the great success that she has done, it is because immigration has reached her confines. Then she can go onward and upward and make its success just as pronounced in the future, if this immigration continues. She is far from reaching her limit of resources. Let me remind the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. Smith) that Boston is a big city. Boston wants immigrants and has encouraged immigration, and we do not care whether it comes from the fields or from the mines or from the cities of Europe. All we ask is law-abiding men and a chance to put them to work. And if a great State like Massachusetts can succeed in spite of the fact that it has no natural advantages like the States over the Mississippi and south of Mason and Dixon's line, certainly other States ought to be able by the same means to attain the same degree of success. (*Loud applause.*)

MR. GOULDEN, OF NEW YORK:

I know there is a fear permeating the country that we are getting a lot of undesirable immigrants here. In my personal experience, witnessing the incoming of these immigrants upon so many occasions, I want, if possible, to allay the fears of this House by saying to you that 95% of the men, women and children whom I have seen landing and on Ellis Island, I should welcome with open arms. They are going to make a desirable class of citizens, according to my careful observation. In the city of New York we have scores of schools, each of them accommodating three to four thousand children, of whom 90 to 100% are either foreign born or of foreign born parents. I am glad and able to testify personally to this, because for years I was connected with the public schools of New York. I wish to say that those children are taken in hand by our splendid corps of teachers, the best in the country, and magnificent citizens made of them. I am a firm believer that our great system of public education is going to take care of the

children of all immigrants, desirable or otherwise. I deny that there is any considerable percentage of the undesirable admitted into the country. The immigrants are the class of people who do our manual labor, as has been so ably and eloquently expressed by my learned colleague from New York (Mr. Cockran). My own district, with its 450,000 people, is not yet fully developed, and we are obliged to have—in fact, must have—these people to do the real labor, the work of digging trenches, the foundations for houses and sewers, regulating and grading our splendid street system—all that class of manual labor; and I want to say to this House that but for the immigrants that came into the port of New York the last ten years we should not have progressed as we have done. Take the Borough of the Bronx, the northern borough and the most progressive of the five of the great city of New York, with a population in 1900 of 200,500, and to-day with a population of 400,000. Much of this development has been brought about by the men who have come in at Ellis Island with the aid of a public citizenship. Therefore, we ought to encourage their coming, for they are the class of men who, in my district at least, are making good citizens and doing excellent work in the upbuilding of the great and imperial city of New York.

Now, in reference to the question of the scarcity of labor, I am one of those unfortunate men known sometimes as an agriculturist. You know there is a difference between a farmer and an agriculturist. A farmer is the fellow who does the work and the agriculturist is the man who pays the bills. I am unfortunate enough to be an agriculturist, owning a couple of farms, and I cannot obtain upon those farms the labor necessary for their cultivation. I am obliged to go to Ellis Island and ship from there laborers. As they become Americanized and go into other occupations, I have to go to Ellis Island again and try to secure men for these farms to assist in their cultivation. That is the case, I think, in general, everywhere, and in order that we may have somebody to work our lands I am in favor of all good immigration. I may add that these farms are in the grand old State of Maryland, where we generally find difficulty in securing labor.

And now, in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I want to say that I do not entertain the pessimistic view of my friend from Iowa, Mr. Hepburn. I am an optimist, but my observations on this question of immigration lead me to believe that the country needs good, able-bodied men and women. The country need not fear for its institutions nor for the glorious progress we are making all along the lines of patriotic American citizenship.

MR. McMILLAN, OF NEW YORK:

Mr. Chairman, I claim the position of an immigrant, or, possibly more than that, of an imported Irish lad brought over here in his mother's arms, and possibly the fare was paid by a poor aunt, who earned the money in America and earned it in Pittsburg, Pa. (*Applause.*) It has been my lot to dig coal in the mines of Pennsylvania and Ohio, to work side by side with my "buttie" bearing in and wedging down the ore. I know what contributes value, what worth the immigrant is to this country. I have employed them for the last thirty years. I have employed from 100 to 300, and at times a larger number than that. I know their honesty of purpose and that 90% of the immigrants coming to this country come with an honest endeavor to better their condition. They come here with a will power and stamina that tells. They come here because of that instinct and ambition in their nature to better their condition, and in some instances they outstrip our American boy; but I want to be correctly understood that there is no American truer to the American flag and cause of American labor and the just payment for the toil of American sons because it is his birthright than Samuel McMillan. (*Applause.*) But at the same time I want no one brought to this country who is not a worker. I do not want atheists or anarchists or nihilists (or any other 'ists), except "workists." But when I think of what the immigrant has done for Pennsylvania and for the city of Philadelphia in contributing to its wealth and the mere pittance of \$250,000 asked for to build an entrance gate to welcome them, I ask where would your furnaces have been puddled, where would your mines have been dug and worked, where would your great iron industries and constructions that now tower and almost kiss the heavens have been were it not for the immigrants? How many Americans to-day are working in the mines, how many are in the rolling mills? Ask yourselves that, gentlemen. I am a workman. I am an employer of workmen. I have been up every rung in the ladder and, gentlemen, I know whereof I speak. (*Applause.*) It is claimed by the member from Iowa that immigration is a hindrance to American wage-earners. That I deny. It is the immigrant that bears the burden of hard labor, toiling in the under stratus of labor, rejected by the American workmen, and fills his mission and has contributed his full share to the building up of our great country. I say that every man, woman and child, no matter from what country or clime he comes, who is healthy and strong, and who comes to our shores, is far better for our

country than purchased gold, for the reason that they are living factors of our great industries, and the great majority of them remain with us. It is claimed that they have taken the bulk of their earnings back with them. That is true in some degree with the Italian, but with no other race. On the other hand, how many bring money with them? I am not one of those who decry the foreign element and their influence in our country. I claim that the leaven of American principles and doctrine is sufficiently strong to successfully combat and conquer every foe of its institutions, and the American wage-earner is absolutely safe in his position because of his superior skill and knowledge and will always command his worth as the most intelligent son of toil and should receive the highest pay and reward for his faithful labors. (*Prolonged applause.*)

The League's Purposes

The National Liberal Immigration League aims to preserve for our country the benefits of immigration while keeping out undesirable immigrants.

To realize this object, we advocate the following measures:

The laws excluding criminals, paupers, persons having dangerous contagious diseases, and similar undesirable classes, should be maintained and carefully enforced.

There should be no further restriction of immigration.

Immigrants should be educated, Americanized and fitted for American citizenship.

Ample provision should be made for the distribution of immigrants, who should be especially directed to the South and West.

In order to diminish the evils of congestion, free transportation should be granted from overcrowded regions to places where there is a demand for labor. Laborers who live in congested cities should also receive free or cheap transportation to suburbs.

Aliens who commit crimes after coming here—unless paroled or pardoned—should be deported.

Membership Dues, \$1.00 per Annum



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